

Week Ahead Weather March 7, 2022

Over the past week, precipitation was higher in the mountains with amounts up to an inch in some locations. The map of observed precipitation from the National Weather Service California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) is shown in Figure 1.

CNRFC Area Observed Precipitation

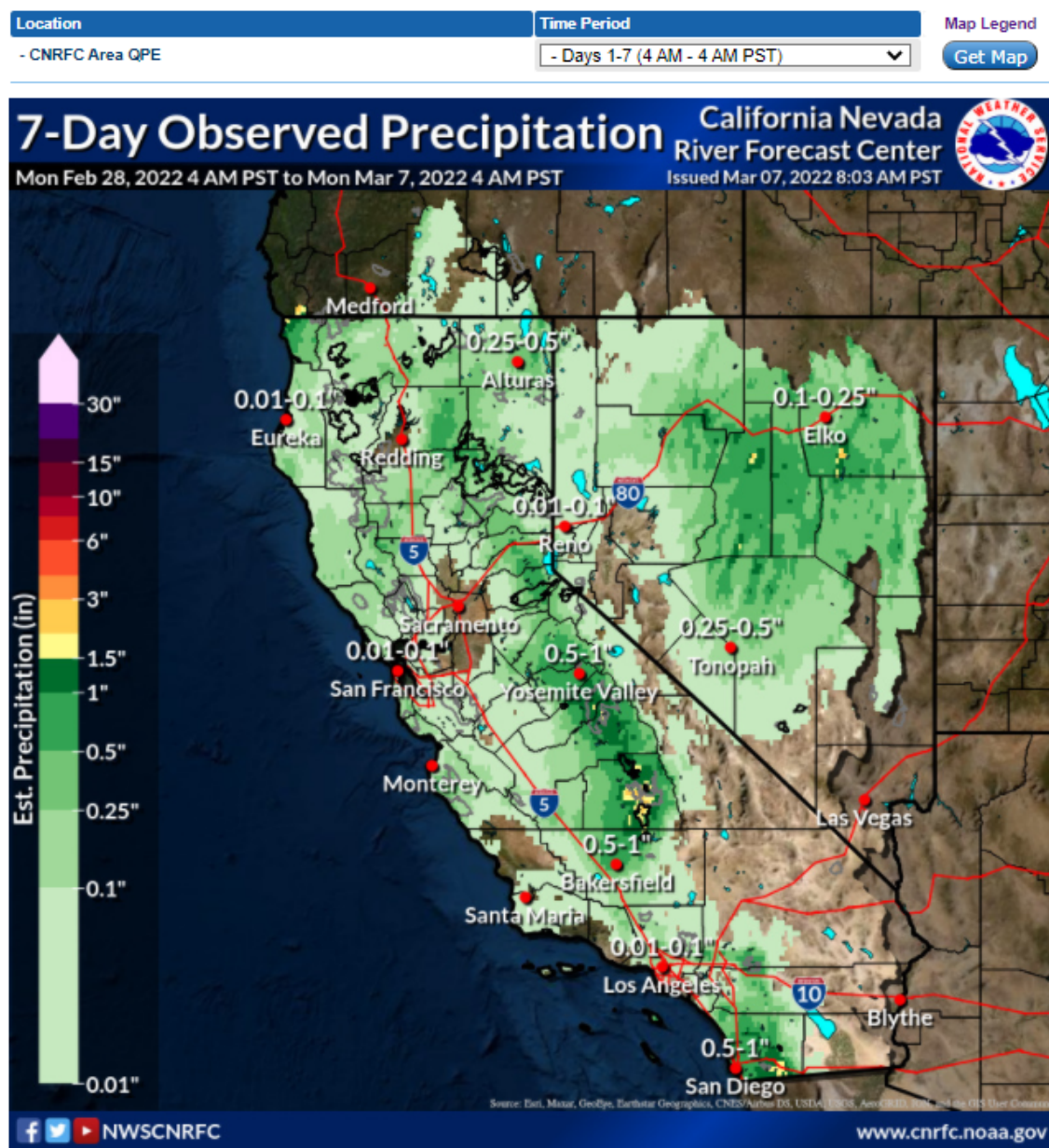


Figure 1. CNRFC map of observed precipitation from 2/28/22 to 3/7/22.

Over the next six days, precipitation is limited to scattered showers on the North Coast, Central Sierra Nevada, and San Diego County areas. This is shown in the CNRFC map of forecast precipitation in

Figure 2. The first half of March is then following January and February in far below average precipitation accumulations.

CNRFC Area Precipitation Forecast

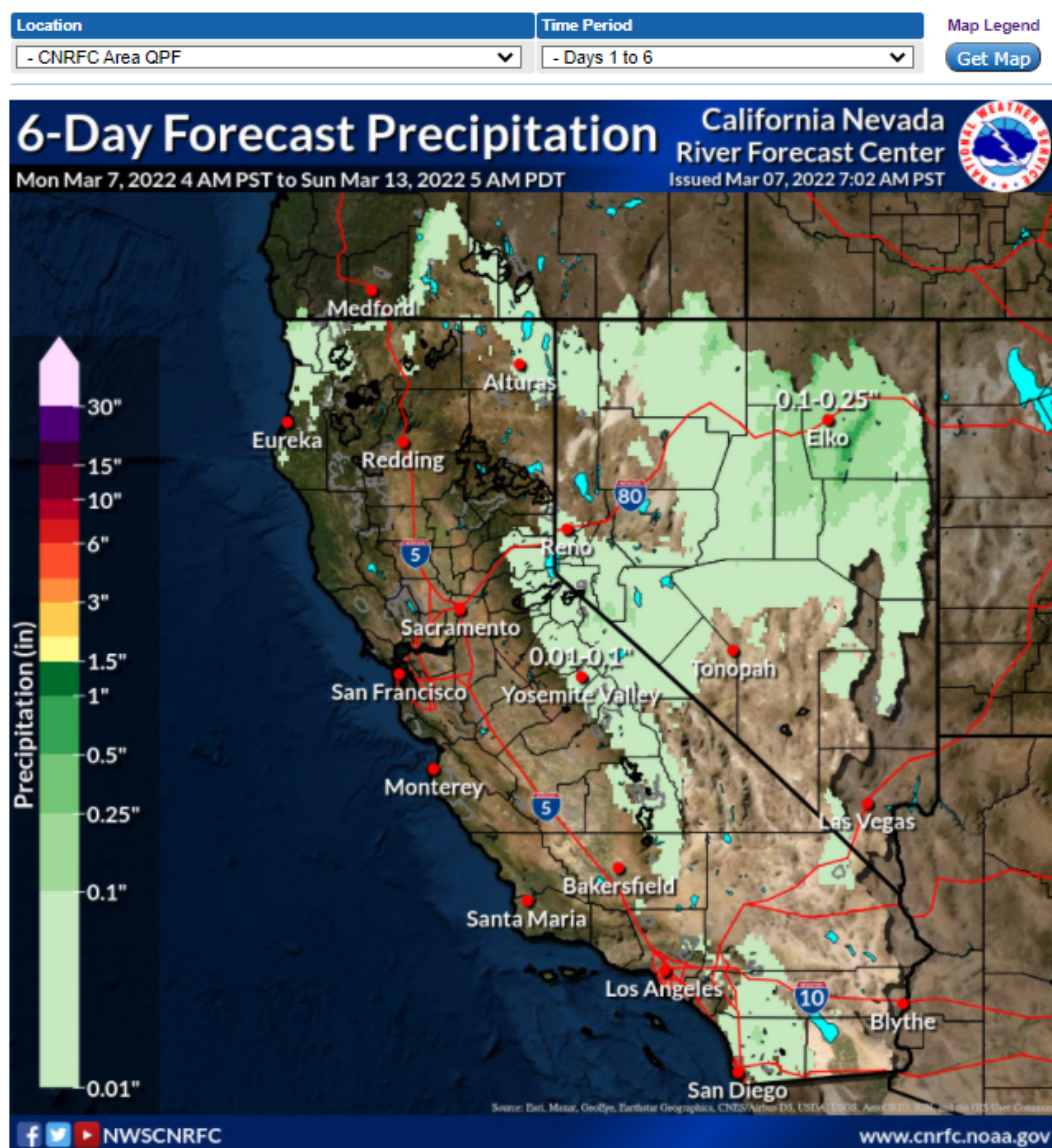


Figure 2. CNRFC map of forecast precipitation from 3/7/22 to 3/13/22.

Looking at February 2022, the California Climate Tracker at Western Region Climate Center shows Statewide precipitation was the second driest February with 0.23 inches of precipitation. Only 2020 was drier with 0.20 inches. This means the top two driest Februarys in 127 years of record were recorded in the current drought. For January and February combined, it was the driest in the observed record with only 0.75 inches of precipitation. This is less than half of the previous record set in 2013 when 1.68 inches was recorded. Water year 2020 sits at 3rd with 2.5 inches recorded. On average the state would expect to see 8.16 inches of precipitation in this time frame.

Looking ahead for the rest of March there are signs of a potential atmospheric river (AR) impacting the State north of the Golden Gate in the middle of the month. This is indicated in the AR landfall tool from the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E) shown in Figure 3. Right now, the green to orange colors around 3/15/22 indicate that only about half of the ensemble of forecast model runs have the AR making landfall over California with greater confidence for Oregon indicated by the orange coloring. The green coloring near the 19th and 23rd of March indicates the potential for a series of ARs making landfall but the focus continues to be north of California. We will follow the evolution of the forecasts to see how this pattern develops.

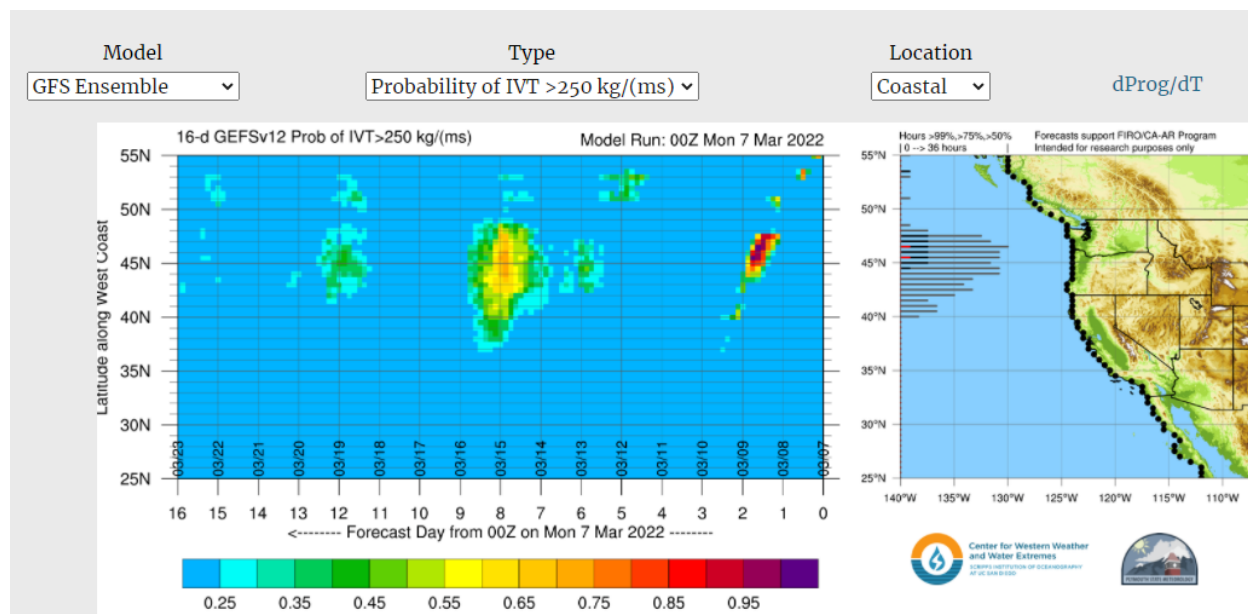


Figure 3. CW3E AR landfall tool showing the potential for atmospheric river activity around 3/15/22.

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